

ITEMS FOR PROGRESS REPORT FBID FOR JANUARY 1961  
FROM BROADCAST INFORMATION SECTION/FOS

(2/2/61)

1. The Broadcast Information Section prepared a special two-page report  
~~on Sino-Soviet bloc radio output to Africa and the Arab World for Chief FBID.~~  
The report included a breakdown of output by language from each bloc country.

(Report sent to ?)

FOS/BIS

2. The ~~Broadcast Information Section~~ prepared a special report on the history  
of the Communist-run "Voice of Truth" radio station, which broadcasts to Greece  
and on the former "Free Greece Radio" which operated some years ago from  
Yugoslavia and Rumania. This information was ~~given to Liaison and Requirements~~  
Staff to correct ~~certain~~ erroneous information on subject contained in two  
State Department cables.

3. Mr. Charlins of the U.S. Army Signal Corps Intelligence Agency visited  
the Broadcast Information Section to gather information on broadcasting stations  
in Southeast Asia, including Laos, for a special report his agency was preparing.

4. Two additional countries inaugurated broadcast services for Africa during  
January — Poland and Canada. Radio Warsaw started its African Service on  
20 January in French and English, totalling 10½ hours weekly in each language.  
Radio Canada started its African Service in English and French on 29 January  
totalling 10½ hours weekly. Warsaw also started a service for Australasia on  
20 January and has now restored its total international broadcast output to the  
level broadcast prior to the cessation of its North American Service on

1 December 1960. (See next page 1st para)

5. What appears to be the forerunner of the Cuban International Service has  
been observed by FBID monitors on 11760 kcs since 30 January. The station, using  
moderate power, was heard with a one-hour Spanish language transmission announcing  
as "Radio Havana, the Free Voice of America." The 100 kilowatt transmitter should be  
put in use in very near future.

ADD TO ITEM 4: Radio Moscow doubled its output in Swahili for Africa on 20 January by adding a second half-hour program. Swahili output is now seven hours a week. BBC is covering the new broadcast which like the first program, is given in the Kiunguja dialect of Swahili. yes

6. Ulan Bator, Mongolia, started a Second Program for domestic listeners in early January over two shortwave channels. Much of the material is repetitious of earlier First Program broadcasts which enables FBID to cover certain programs, such as Russian news, with better results.

7. During the recent El Salvador coup by military elements, both the East and West Coast bureaus were able to monitor afternoon and evening broadcasts over the government-owned "Radio Nacional" of San Salvador, which broadcasts on shortwave. Although material was limited, key announcements and news items were intercepted from this <sup>official</sup> station. yes

8. Coverage of <sup>same</sup> Laotian stations is still far from satisfactory, mainly due to inadequate transmitting power. For example, <sup>the</sup> Vietnamese radio is still using low power, although efforts are being made to restore its ten kilowatt transmitters, which should have been ready this week. The clandestine-operated pro-Souvanha "Radio of the Laotian Kingdom" returned to the air in mid-January and now has four half-hour transmissions daily using the facilities of the pro-Communist "Pathet Lao Radio." Stations at Pakse, Luang Prabang, and Savannakhet (all pro-Boun Oum) are being monitored irregularly, but the material is not always important enough for regular coverage. The use of frequencies under 8 megacycles by Laotian stations also makes it difficult to cover daytime broadcasts at Okinawa and Saigon bureaus. However, sufficient material is being intercepted during morning and evening hours to provide satisfactory coverage of the Laotian situation. yes

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9.  of the BIS recently visited the facilities ~~and headquarters~~ of the Voice of America in the HEW building and were given a specially conducted tour. They also were granted interviews with several VOA officials, including ~~one with~~ the chief announcer of the Latin American Service. STAT

10. Coverage of Elizabethville, Katanga, broadcasts was facilitated in January with the inauguration of a new 50 kilowatt transmitter by Radio Katanga which can be heard in several languages with clear signals in ~~both~~ Europe and on the <sup>U.S.</sup> ~~American~~ East Coast. Leopoldville reception also improved during January, especially of the ~~new~~ Congo International Service which was recently inaugurated. The inauguration of new high-powered shortwave transmitters in several West and Central African countries has gradually enabled FBIS to increase its African potential coverage during the past few months. A number of other countries are preparing to inaugurate new shortwave transmitters during the next few months which should further ~~enhance~~ enhance East Coast coverage of African material. yes

end

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